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Free Trade Area of the Americas

The VIII Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Ministerial meeting ended on November 20, 2003 with the adoption of a broad and vague declaration forwarded by the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC). The document outlines a free trade region that allows member countries to choose which commitments to accept or decline. The agreement keeps the talks alive, but postpones decisions on market access and intellectual property rights. The issue of agricultural subsidies and dumping will be resolved by the World Trade Organization.

The FTAA Trade Negotiations Committee will meet in February 2004 where much of the real work will be carried out. The 34 countries of the Americas (excluding Cuba) would be the world's largest free trade area, a common market that serves 800 million consumers. Industrialized countries are seeking lower tariffs, protection of foreign investments and respect for copyrights, while the developing countries want more protection for their neophyte industries, particularly agriculture. The final declaration is available at <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>

Source: BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, various news wires

Russian Meat Import Quotas

Russia set a three year poultry quota in January of 2003 equvalating to a limit of 1,050,000 metric tons (MT) of poultry imports annually. Quotas actually went into effect in May of 2003 and were prorated at 744,000 MT for the first year. The U.S. was allowed to sell 553,500 MT, the EU 139,900 MT, Brazil 33,300 MT, China 3,100 MT, and other countries 14,200 MT.

On December 2, 2003 Russia set poultry meat import quotas for 2004. Out of a total of 1.05 million metric tons, the U.S. will receive a quota of 771,900 MT; the EU, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Cyprus, and Malta combined will have 205,000 MT; Paraguay 5,000 MT; and remaining other countries 68,000 MT.

Russia restricted poultry imports to help its' domestic industry expand. Poultry production in the first three quarters rose 10 percent, in comparison to the targeted 15 percent.

Source: various newswires

U.S. Imports of Shell Eggs, Selected Countries, in dozens

Country	Item	January-September				September			
		Quantity		Value		Quantity		Value	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Canada	Table Eggs	35,380	9,232	139	39	2,900	0	12	0
Canada	Other Eggs	15,970	4,241	35	10	0	0	0	0
China	Other Eggs	2,454,206	2,988,729	2,413	2,781	154,731	72,426	159	63
China	Table Eggs	352,740	235,191	308	235	18,480	0	16	0
Thailand	Other Eggs	202,200	282,486	101	166	7,200	31,200	4	19

Fresh Table Eggs (consumer grades) 407000030, Other Eggs 407000090

U.S. Imports of Egg Products, Selected Countries, in metric tons

Country	Item	January-September				September			
		Quantity		Value		Quantity		Value	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Canada	Liquid/Frozen White	1,925.9	1,391.0	1,167.0	950.0	187.7	186.1	57.0	176.0
Canada	Liquid/Frozen Yolk	844.1	1,283.4	1,701.0	2,437.0	108.4	342.1	211.0	740.0
Canada	Liquid/Frozen Whole	768.2	818.2	657.0	882.0	79.5	118.3	78.0	170.0
Canada	Dried Whole	814.0	346.8	2489.0	807.0	108.1	33.2	316.0	44.0
Canada	Dried Yolk	588.9	311.9	2124.0	1119.0	109.2	54.4	397.0	201.0
Canada	Dried White	503.2	49.7	1791.0	233.0	23.8	0.0	87.0	0.0
Thailand	Liquid/Frozen Whole	240.0	331.4	325.0	460.0	21.4	16.7	28.0	31.0

Value in thousand dollars

Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

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Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending November 22, 2003		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003 2002
Liquid	306	458	15,813 18,768
Frozen	0	0	96 21
Dried	40	0	519 763
Total	346	458	16,428 19,552

2U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending November 22, 2003		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003 2002
Liquid	31	126	5,264 5,824
Frozen	162	46	3,540 3,149
Dried	40	177	1,220 4,883
Total	233	349	10,024 13,856

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending November 22, 2003		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002 /1	2003 2002
Jumbo	17	100	454 1,540
Extra Large	2,428	2,955	32,698 46,672
Large	4,942	5,267	125,824 137,817
Medium	1,580	1,348	60,622 47,319
Ungraded	2,784	7,500	173,022 325,145
Misc	0	0	14,642 14,017
Total	11,751	17,170	407,262 572,510

Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 22-Nov-03
(PRELIMINARY)**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
HEAD	1,097	1,427	2,524
LAST WEEK	1,126	1,656	2,782
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,663	1,556	3,219
TO-DATE/2003	67,191	66,176	133,367
TO-DATE/2002	81,900	66,918	148,818
THOUSANDS			
HEAD	34	0	34
LAST WEEK	0	0	-
SAME WEEK YR AGO	273	4	277
TO-DATE/2003	10,200	141	10,341
TO-DATE/2002	14,256	283	14,539

Source: Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	1,131	1,427	2,558
LAST WEEK	1,126	1,656	2,782
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,936	1,560	3,496
TO-DATE/2003	77,391	66,317	143,708
TO-DATE/2002	96,156	67,201	163,357

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

28-NOV-2003				
CHICKEN				
PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED

PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				
15-20%				
RANGE	15.75-21.50	10.00-17.00	2,508,000	1,732,800
WTD AVERAGE	18.78	12.46		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

28-NOV-2003				
CHICKEN				
PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED

PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				
FAT CONTENT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	16.00-22.00	18.00	676,100	634,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.46	18.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	15.50-22.00	11.50-17.00	1,444,000	588,000
WTD AVERAGE	20.39	12.66		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	11.00	41,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		11.00		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 28 NOVEMBER 2003.

Market activity seasonally slow. Some interest was noted fresh 15-20% mechanically separated turkey for next week's deliveries for post-holiday needs. Trading centered on light volumes of frozen destrapped tenderloins at 75 cents delivered January, 2004 and on frozen 15-20% mechanically separated turkey for export.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2003**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS						
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	43.00	40		
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS						
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	16.00-18.00		16.54	196	16.79	236
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	87.00		87.00	40	87.00	40

NO EXPORT TRADING REPORTED DUE TO THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2003

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2003**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		R	41.91	132
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	43.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		T	18.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN				

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2003**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		R	41.91	132
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	43.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	18.00		18.00	40
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		T	80.10	196

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		R	41.91	132
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		F	43	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		F	16.5	160
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		T	80.1	196

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.

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